UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.437
13 October 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 437th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 15 July 1994, at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 6.05 p.m.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION (continued) (A/AC.159/L.121)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Rapporteur to introduce those parts of the Committee's draft report, contained in document A/AC.159/L.121, which had not yet been taken up, namely, paragraph 8 bis, which would be added after existing paragraph 8; chapter III, (Conclusions and recommendations) and an annex on the subject of alternative approaches.

2. Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar), Rapporteur, introduced chapter III, containing conclusions and recommendations, and the annex on alternative approaches approved by the Committee during its informal meetings, both of which were to be added at the end of the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.121). He also introduced orally the following amendments to the draft report: in paragraph 8, "six informal meetings" should be replaced by "seven informal meetings", and paragraph 8 bis, approved by the Committee during its informal meetings, would be inserted as paragraph 9 of the report. After reading out that paragraph, he pointed out that paragraphs 9 and 10 would have to be renumbered 10 and 11, and indicated the changes required in the index as a result of the changes and amendments introduced.

3. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Rapporteur for his statement and suggested that the Committee should consider document A/AC.159/L.121 paragraph by paragraph.

Chapter I. Introduction

Paragraph 1

4. Paragraph 1 was adopted.

Paragraph 2

5. The CHAIRMAN said that in the last line, "six informal meetings" should read "seven informal meetings".

6. Paragraph 2, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 3 to 6

7. Paragraphs 3 to 6 were adopted.

Chapter II. Work of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1994

Paragraph 7

8. Paragraph 7 was adopted.

9. Mr. CHIREH (Djibouti) drew the attention of the Secretariat to an error in the alphabetical listing of States in paragraph 4 of the French version of the report.

10. Mr. OBADI (Yemen) said he did not have the Arabic versions of chapter III and of the annex.

11. Mr. ALASANIYA (Secretary) explained that because they were new, chapter III and the annex were available in English only.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would circulate the other language versions as soon as possible.

Paragraph 8

13. Paragraph 8 was adopted.

Paragraph 8 bis

14. Paragraph 8 bis (new paragraph 9) was adopted.

Paragraphs 10 and 11

15. Paragraphs 10 and 11 were adopted.

Chapter III. Conclusions and recommendations

Paragraphs 12 and 13

16. Paragraphs 12 and 13 were adopted.

Paragraph 14

17. Mr. RODRIGO (Sri Lanka) pointed out that "a democratic" should read "the democratic".

18. Paragraph 14, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 15

19. Paragraph 15 was adopted.

Paragraph 16

20. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the final text of the paragraph should read "The Ad Hoc Committee should encourage measures of cooperation in both military and non-military aspects of security, keeping in mind various perceptions with regard to the region."

21. Paragraph 16, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 17

22. Paragraph 17 was adopted.

Paragraph 18

23. Mr. GRIFFIN (Australia) pointed out that "encourage" should read "encouraging".

24. Paragraph 18, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 19 to 22

25. Paragraphs 19 to 22 were adopted.

26. Chapter III, as a whole was adopted.

Annex

27. Mr. GRIFFIN (Australia) pointed out that in the ninth subparagraph, "cooperation" should read "cooperative".

28. The annex, as orally amended, was adopted.

29. The draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly, as a whole, as orally amended, was adopted.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that, meeting in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/82, the Ad Hoc Committee had dedicated itself enthusiastically to furthering the aims of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace of 16 December 1971.

31. The Ad Hoc Committee hoped that some of the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, which had closely followed its deliberations, would soon participate fully in its work once again.

32. The Ad Hoc Committee's work had been made easier in the current year by the responses received to the General Assembly's request, contained in resolution 48/82, that Member States submit to the Secretary-General their views on new alternative approaches. The Ad Hoc Committee welcomed the replies received from Australia, China, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, held an in-depth discussion of those replies, and had decided to include them in its report for the current year. They would certainly provide guidance for the Ad Hoc Committee's work in future.

33. It had been generally agreed that in order to persuade the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to participate in its work, the Ad Hoc Committee should refrain from repeatedly referring to the need for them to do so and then obstructing their participation by maintaining negative attitudes, as it had done in the past. The message of the Ad Hoc Committee's work in 1994 was that its members rejected such attitudes. For all Asian and African States, the peace, security and stability of the Indian Ocean region was of the utmost importance, and all efforts should be directed towards the achievement of those goals.

34. As a result of the Ad Hoc Committee's deliberations during five days of formal and informal meetings, several new alternative approaches had emerged. If those approaches were maintained in future with the same determination that members had shown, it might be possible to reach an agreement quickly, giving a new impetus to the process of strengthening cooperation and achieving peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

35. In the "conclusions and recommendations", which were only modest steps towards the achievement of its goals, the Ad Hoc Committee had reiterated the conclusions and recommendations it had approved during its session in 1993, and emphasized the need to continue to work out new alternative approaches. The climate of trust and cooperation noted during the 1993 session had been further enhanced by significant new developments of a positive nature in the region, such as the establishment of the democratic, non-racial Government in South Africa and encouraging developments in the Middle East. The Ad Hoc Committee also noted that the anticipated entry into force, in November 1994, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea would enhance the prospects for the measures of regional and global cooperation which had been adopted by consensus, including the full enjoyment of freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean. The Ad Hoc Committee had deemed it advisable to encourage measures of cooperation in both military and non-military aspects of security, keeping in view the various perceptions with regard to the region. It had reiterated its conviction that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in its work was important and would greatly facilitate the dialogue which was essential for the achievement of peace, security and stability in the region. The Ad Hoc Committee therefore requested the Chairman to apprise the Governments of the permanent members of the Security Council concerned, and the major maritime users of the Committee's work and to consult them with a view to encouraging their renewed participation in and cooperation with the Committee.

36. The Ad Hoc Committee had considered that confidence-building measures at different regional levels, building incrementally on cooperation among various regional and other partners on specific issues, made an important contribution to the attainment of the goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region and should be further pursued. The Ad Hoc Committee recognized the value of ongoing naval cooperation in the Indian Ocean and encouraged consultations thereon among the countries concerned. It noted the general recognition of the need to pursue both global and regional efforts in a complementary way, bearing in mind that the States of the region could make a constructive contribution to strengthening peace, security, stability and cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

37. The Ad Hoc Committee had discussed proposals concerning the desirability of holding seminars, workshops, or meetings of experts as a means of developing new ideas and fostering the habit of dialogue in the region. In that connection, it had been agreed that any such initiative should not detract from the importance of the Ad Hoc Committee or diffuse the focus of its mandate.

38. Those important recommendations might be only modest steps towards achieving the goals of the Ad Hoc Committee, but that should not be a cause for discouragement. The rapid changes in the international situation had begun to be felt in the Indian Ocean, and the countries of the region could not avoid the

winds of change. The Ad Hoc Committee must maintain its vision of a region in which cooperation would prevail over confrontation and all countries, whether large or small, would consider that their common interests and collective security came before all else. The goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region were common goals which would be achieved jointly through a collective and united effort.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.